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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1418)

Name of Candidate	SOURAV SINHA		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	458407
Center	ONLINE	Date	

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. Discuss the need to strengthen the National Commission for Scheduled Castes to tackle the problems faced by the Scheduled Castes in India. (150 words) 10

भारत में अनुसूचित जातियों द्वारा सामना की जा रही समस्याओं से निपटने के लिए राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जाति आयोग को सशक्त बनाने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

National Commission of Scheduled Castes under Article 338 is a constitutional body aimed to address all round problems faced by the SC community.

Problems faced by Members of SC community

- Despite Article 17 and Prevention of Civil Rights Act, untouchability still practiced — attitudinal problem
- Rising Atrocities — incidents of Mob Lynching etc; Hate Crime
- Limited participation in Education / Jobs despite Reservation policies.
- Practice of Manual Scavenging could not be eradicated

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In light of the problems faced, it is paramount to strengthen NCSC:—

↳ Increase Budgetary support and technical manpower to make its functioning efficient

↳ Power to hold executive accountable for non-adherance to its recommendations.

↳ Currently it has less regulatory teeth.

↳ Lay down transparent criteria for selection of members of NCSC.

~~↳ Pro~~ At the same time, it is very important that role models come out of the SC community to infuse confidence among the SC youth. In UPSC exam 2018, Kanishak Kataria from SC community had topped the exam. This should set the precedent for future trajectory of the aspiring youths from SC.

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2. Does the Representation of People's Act ensure an effective mechanism against criminalization of politics in India? Discuss. (150 words) 10
क्या लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम भारत में राजनीति के अपराधीकरण के विरुद्ध एक प्रभावी तंत्र सुनिश्चित करता है? चर्चा कीजिए।

Representation of People's Act 1951 governs various aspects related to elections in the country.

Criminalisation of politics
- → 29% MPs with serious criminal charge
- → 43% MPs with at least one criminal charge
- → Few MPs even accused of rape
- → Role of money and muscle power in politics

ADR Data

Effectiveness of RPA
- ↳ Does not have provision to disqualify chargesheeted and convicted politicians either from contesting or membership.

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↳ No penalty specified for Paid news.

↳ Inter-party structures are not regulated
- Lack of ~~int~~ party democracy and parties are not required to show reasons behind selecting a candidate.

However RPA bars MPs if convicted for a crime with punishment greater than 2 years.

Criminalisation of politics must be tackled in an effective manner

↓ Implement Vohra Committee recommendations

↓ Mandatory disclosure of candidates and their background by political parties.

↓ Debate around State Funding of elections.

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3. Discuss the challenges that are being faced by Gram Nyayalayas in their effective functioning. (150 words) 10
ग्राम न्यायालयों द्वारा प्रभावी रूप से कार्य करने में सामना की जा रही चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए।

Gram Nyayalayas were established under Gram Nyayalayas Act 2008 to bring justice delivery system to the doorsteps of citizens.

Gram Nyayalaya face challenges:-

1. Less Awareness among the citizens
2. Vacancy and delay in appointments:- to the post of Nyayadhikaris by the state government
3. Lack of finality in the judgment — adds to vacancy in the higher judiciary.
4. Less attractive career option due to posting in villages and less remuneration.
5. Technical and funding challenges.

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6. Multiplicity of judicial bodies with similar jurisdiction — e.g. Lok Adalats, Family Courts etc.

7. Adequate numbers of GNs are not set up by state government.

Way Forward

* Separate cadre for the post of Gram Nyayadhikaris with definite career progression — to attract recent law graduates

* Budgetary support by state has to be increased on the recommendation of state Finance Commission.

* Proactive role of High Courts in monitoring the activities of GNs.

Right to timely justice is an inherent part of Article 21 and GNs can play an important role in that direction.

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4. Explain the rationale behind setting up 'Alternative Mechanisms' in ensuring effective decision making in the governance of the country. **(150 words) 10**

देश के शासन में प्रभावी निर्णयन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए 'वैकल्पिक तंत्र' स्थापित करने का औचित्य स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Alternative Mechanism (for Bias methods.

Alternative Mechanisms

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5. The relationship between bureaucracy and democracy is both paradoxical and complementary. Comment. (150 words) 10
नौकरशाही और लोकतंत्र के बीच संबंध विरोधाभासी और अनुपूरक दोनों हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Paradoxical relationship

↳ Top-down approach and indifferent democracy.

↳ Weberian model of bureaucracy - mai-baap system!

↳ Distant from ordinary citizens - unreachable bureaucracy.

↳ Rigid system, Hierarchical model and less willingness to change hampers democratic processes

↳ Often corruption ~~and~~ etc. limits growth and development

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Complementary relation

↳ Channel and interface between citizens and government.

↳ Agents of change - eg IAS officers like Arunshay Payu, Vinod Khemka.

↳ Meritocratic bureaucracy - essential for sustaining growth.

↳ Agents of national integration and levers to bring about meaningful changes in society.

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6. By transforming the way governments work and reinventing people's participation in the democratic process, e-governance empowers the citizen in multiple ways. Discuss in the context of India. **(150 words) 10**
सरकारों के काम करने के तरीके में परिवर्तन और लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया में लोगों की भागीदारी का पुनर्निर्माण करके, ई-शासन अनेक प्रकार से नागरिकों को सशक्त बनाता है। भारत के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

E-governance refers to the use of ICT tools and digital technologies for efficient delivery of public services and governance to the citizens.

E-gov transform the way governments work

↳ Re-engineering of internal processes to make departmental activities online.

↳ More responsive and responsible bureaucracy due to increased reach of citizens and potential to hold them accountable.

↳ less cumbersome procedure and paperwork.

E-gov reinvent people's Participation

↳ Computerisation of various G2C services has involved wided section of population.

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- e.g. Common Services Centre, Direct Benefit transfer etc.

↳ Revolutionised financial inclusion through JAM trinity – Jan Dhan, Aadhar, Mobile.

↳ online Monitoring Dashboards to track various government activities – meaningful social audit

Government has taken several measures to revolutionize e-governance architecture – such as NIC was established; launch of INDEA (Indian Enterprise Architecture); adopted Shillong Declaration on e-governance; all government departments now have own website. etc.

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7. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2019 dilutes the spirit of Supreme Court's NALSA judgement towards self-determination of gender. Discuss. (150 words) 10

उभयलिंगी व्यक्ति (अधिकारों का संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 2019 लिंग के आत्मनिर्धारण के प्रति उच्चतम न्यायालय के नालसा (NALSA) निर्णय की भावना को कमजोर करता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Supreme Court in its 2014 judgment in NALSA vs Union of India, had directed the State to take pro-active measures to uplift the status of third gender. Right of to self-perceived gender identity was recognised as an inherent part of Right to life and Personal Liberty under Article 21.

Transgender Persons Act 2019

* Formation of National Council of Transgenders headed by Union Minister of Social Justice
* Prohibited 8 forms of discrimination.
* Equal access to public amenities and opportunities.
* District Magistrate to be the issuing authority of the gender certificate.

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Yes, it dilutes spirit towards self-determination

↳ Gender identity need to be assessed by an expert committee.

↳ Based on that report DM issues the certificate

↳ However, a transgender person can choose to change the sex in future and apply for new certificate.

In the spirit of Article 19, 21 and the Preamble of the Constitution which assures freedom and dignity to each individual, proactive steps need to be taken to uplift their status such as

- Reservation under OBC quota in education and jobs
- Financial support to start business of their own
- Accord NCT constitutional status and involve more bargainers in policy process.

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8. The worthwhile goal of Universal Health Coverage can be achieved by declaring the right to health as a fundamental right. Comment.
(150 words) 10

स्वास्थ्य के अधिकार को एक मूल अधिकार घोषित करके सार्वभौमिक स्वास्थ्य कवरेज के सार्थक लक्ष्य को प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Universal Health coverage refers to 100% coverage by health insurance, healthcare services and prevent people from falling into poverty due to immense health expenditure

- It is instrumental in achieving WHO's Triple Billion Targets.

Right to Health can be construed as an inherent part of Rife to life and liberty under Article 21. It can drive us towards goal of Universal Health coverage.

↳ Enforceability by judicial channels will infuse accountability in health system.

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↳ Benefits from government scheme and interventions will empower every citizen.

↳ Well channelised funding will reach the healthcare delivery system.

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9. Indian Diaspora in the Gulf countries is an asset beset with multiple challenges. Comment. (150 words) 10
खाड़ी देशों में भारतीय डायस्पोरा अनेक चुनौतियों मे घिरी एक परिसंपत्ति है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

More than 11 million diaspora live in the Gulf countries which major centres being UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar etc.

Diaspora as an Asset

* Major source of remittances and inward FDI to India.
* India's goodwill ambassadors – essential to strengthen our relationship with the gulf countries.
* Easier for government to justify meaningful relation with Gulf Countries, domestically.

Challenges faced by diaspora in Gulf

* Global move toward self reliance – fear of losing jobs due to substitution by domestic labour.
* Exploitation of blue collar workers in industries

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and oil fields - majority of Diaspora in Gulf are unskilled migrants.

* Rising Intolerance and hence discrimination for outside communities.

Challenges posed to India

* Policy ~~tem~~ lever with gulf Countries to draw Conversions from India in case of any negotiations.
* Integration of returning migrants into the local economy - affect of Pandemic.
* With 2nd largest Muslim population, places of Islam such as Mecca are of immence cultural importance to Indians.

India has taken proactive measures to support its diaspora in times of need such as Skilling and registration of migrants through recent Emigration Act; Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana; Vande Bharat Express etc.

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10. Briefly outline the genesis and functioning of World Food Programme (WFP). Also highlight its contribution to India's effort in addressing the issue of hunger and malnutrition. (150 words) 10

विश्व खाद्य कार्यक्रम (WFP) की उत्पत्ति और कार्यप्रणाली की संक्षिप्त रूपरेखा प्रस्तुत कीजिए। साथ ही, भूख और कुपोषण की समस्या को दूर करने के भारत के प्रयासों में इसके योगदान पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

Recently, World Food Programme was awarding Nobel Prize for Peace for its extraordinary contribution towards eradicating global hunger and march towards SDG goal 2 (zero hunger) by 2030.

World Food Programme is the food security wing of the United Nations. It works among developing countries to tackle hunger and malnutrition by providing food materials, technical expertise and funding to the countries.

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Contribution to India's effort

↳ Policy recommendation to tackle hunger through targetted interventions.

↳ Technical cooperation with national agencies involved in the sector

↳ Active collaboration with relevant line ministries such as MWCD, Mo Agriculture.

↳ Data and experiment from WFP projects feeds into India's policy efforts.

Sustained cooperation is needed to lift 369 million Indian people out of poverty.

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11. Action against civil society groups is seen as shrinking space for dissent by some while others point out to the imperatives of merit based action against certain groups. Examine with examples. **(250 words) 15**

कुछ लोगों द्वारा नागरिक समाज समूहों के विरूद्ध कार्रवाई को असहमति के लिए कम होती स्वीकार्यता के रूप में देखा जाता है, जबकि अन्य लोग कतिपय समूहों के विरूद्ध गुणावगुण आधारित कार्रवाई की अनिवार्यता की ओर इंगित करते हैं। उदाहरण सहित परीक्षण कीजिए।

India was ranked low by several organisations such as PEN International, Freedom in the World Report, Reporters without Border. This highlights a shrinking space for dissent.

Actions against CSOs ⇒ shrinking space

↳ Encroaches upon freedom of speech and expression under Article 19.

↳ Fear of anachronistic laws such as Sedition Act — LCI had recommended for its repeal.

↳ Hamper their ability to hold executive accountable

↳ Democratic participation is not meaningful.

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Imperatives of unit based action

↳ Needed to curb violent tendencies such as extremism and insurgency.

↳ Security and Integrity of the Nation is paramount.

↳ Secessionist groups such as Khalistan movement must be dealt with up front.

There is always a fine line between the real need of action and perceived need of action. Objective use and fair use is needed to foster fair & dissent and criticism which is necessary to foster democracy.

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12. Discuss the implications associated with the Prime Minister's Office acting as the most powerful office due to its formidable influence in policymaking in India. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में नीति-निर्माण में अपने अत्यधिक प्रभाव के कारण प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय के सर्वाधिक शक्तिशाली कार्यालय के रूप में कार्य करने से संबद्ध निहितार्थों की विवेचना कीजिए।

Implication of PMO as the most powerful office in policy making.

↳ Concentration of powers.
- non-Consultative decision-making
- top down approach.

↳ Ministries and their secretaries and other staff have more experience in handling issues related to their field of engagement
- their motivation and engagement often get reduced.

↳ ~~Potent~~ National Security Adviser functions

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↳ Visionary and future proof policies could not be brought due to ~~lack~~ coordination challenges.

↳ Issue of personality cult - ~~where~~

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13. While judiciary's efforts to infuse accountability in the functioning of government institutions and engender human rights jurisprudence demonstrate the importance of judicial governance, it also leads to concerns around judicial overreach. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

जहाँ सरकारी संस्थानों के कार्यकरण में जवाबदेही का संचार करने और मानवाधिकार न्यायशास्त्र उत्पन्न करने का न्यायपालिका का प्रयास न्यायिक शासन का महत्व प्रदर्शित करता है, वहीं यह न्यायिक अतिक्रमण के चतुर्दिक चिंताओं को भी जन्म देता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Indian judiciary has played a pro-active role in strengthening of democratic credentials of the union, but it is also criticised for its judicial overreach.

~~Importance of~~

Instruments of judicial governance
- → Power of interpreting Constitution
- → Power of judicial review (Art 13)
- → Public Interest Litigation (PIL).
- → Article 142 (power to do complete justice).

Legislative vacuum.

No explicit separation of power under Constitution (except Article 50).

Importance of judicial governance

PTO.

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Engender Human Rights.

↳ Visakha guidelines - for protection of sexual harassment at workplaces.

↳ Right to livelihood (Olga Tellis vs. Bombay Municipal Corporation).

↳ Right to personal liberty even protection from arbitrary legislative action (Maneka Gandhi vs. UoI).

↳ Right to pollution free environment (M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India).

↳ Right to Privacy (K.S. Puttaswamy vs. UoI).

Infuse Accountability in govt. institution

↳ Doctrine of Basic structure (Keshavanada Bharti).

↳ prevents Parliament from changing certain basic structure.

↳ Recently, office of Chief Justice of India was brought under the ambit of RTI Act.

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↳ State cannot perpetrate violence against citizens - accountability in police (Salwa Judum case).

Concerns of judicial overreach

↳ Although explicit separation of powers not followed, the function of one organ must not be encroached by other organ.

↳ Tyranny of the unelected - judges are not directly repaible to the people, only the elected representatives are.

↳ Disconnect from ground realities - implementing agencies often find it hard to implement judicial orders.

↳ Creates tension between judiciary and executive.

A fine system of checks and balances between various organs such that no organ encroach upon other's function is the need of the hour.

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14. The power to punish for contempt of court is necessary for the administration of justice. Critically analyse. **(250 words) 15**
न्यायालय की अवमानना के लिए दंडित करने की शक्ति न्याय के प्रशासन के लिए आवश्यक है। समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Under the Constitution of India, Supreme Court and High Courts are vested with power to punish for their Contempt.

Contempt of Court Act clarifies procedural and technical issues regarding the same.

Contempt

Civil
- disobedience of courts' judgment

Criminal
- disrupts normal functioning of courts with an intention to obstruct justice.

Contempt Power is necessary

↳ Uphold honor and dignity of the courts and justice system.

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↳ Since courts have no power ~~to~~ of purse and sword, contempt power is necessary to make its orders followed.

↳ Ensure rule of law to prevail as under Constitution of India.

↳ So that justice delivery system continue to function unhindered.

However, contempt of court powers has certain limitation

↳ Codification of what actually constitutes ~~court~~ contempt not done
— left to the discretion of judges

↳ Fear, sometimes irrational, of contempt affects otherwise innocent reporting of court cases — affects freedom of speech and expression

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↳ Prevailing mindset that judges embody the justice rather than just an agent of justice

— Often contempt of court equated with contempt of judges.

↳ Nature and Quantum of Punishment left to individual discretion of judges.

When power of contempt is essential for administration of justice, certain caveats are needed to be put in place such as codification of contempt, delineation of punishment so that freedom of speech and expression under Article 19 are not encroached.

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

15. What are the legal concerns associated with custodial violence? Discuss the challenges in curbing such incidents. Also, suggest some ways to address this issue.
(250 words) 15

अभिरक्षा में हिंसा से संबद्ध विधिक चिंताएं क्या हैं? ऐसी घटनाओं पर अंकुश लगाने में सामने आने वाली चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, इस समस्या का समाधान करने हेतु कुछ उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।

Recently, due to many deaths in police custody including of a father-son duo from Hyderabad, has brought the issue of custodial violence into focus.

Legal Concerns with custodial violence

* Lack of fixing accountability with the responsible police officer — virtually gives police a free hand.
* Overcrowding prisons — 115% average occupancy in jail.
* Large Number of undertrial prisoners — 68%
* No explicit law to codify rights of the prisoners and duties of the police officer in charge

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Challenges in curbing incidents.

- Lack of evidence to punish the responsible officers.
- Social pressure for retributive justice
  - seen in Hyderabad encounter.
  - hurts in long term.
- Absence of sensitivity among the officers.
- National Human Rights Council and its State Counterparts lack adequate manpower and resources to monitor custodial centres

Ways to address

- Implement LCI 268th report recommendations.
  - that those served 1/3rd sentences and convicted for max 7 years be released on bail.
- Strengthen NHRC to carry out its duties efficiently.

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↳ Sensitiveness training for police officials.

↳ Accountability must be ensured among the police officers.

State has no right to perpetrate violence much less among its own citizens (Supreme Court in Salwa Judum case) — It must be the guiding light for future reforms.

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16. Civil society interventions, ranging from confrontation to engagement with the government, have played an important role in ushering transparency and accountability in governance in India. Discuss with examples. (250 words) 15

सरकार के साथ टकराव से लेकर जुड़ाव तक सिविल सोसाइटी के हस्तक्षेपों ने भारत में शासन में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही का सूत्रपात करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है। उदाहरणों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

Civil society refers to citizens groups such as NGOs, Voluntary organisation, Media Houses, social groups etc.

[Engagement with govt]

↳ Delivery channels for various govt. schemes such as food and medicine delivery – as seen in recent Corona pandemic.

↳ Engagement with govt. in policy formulation and implementation.

↳ NGOs such as Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) – for research activities – feeds into policy process.

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Important role in transparency

↳ Immense role to bring in the Right to Information Act, RTI Act 2005

↳ Pressures from civil society through PILs in court — had led to disclosure of several governmental records and activities

↳ Role of social Audit in schemes such as MGNREGA prevents corruption.

↳ NGOs such as Association of Democratic Reforms — research on criminalisation of politics and need for reforms

Widespread and meaningful participation by civil society organisations has improved the democratic credentials of the India Union!

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17. When it comes to hunger, India faces the paradox of plenty. Discuss. Also suggest ways in which this concern can be addressed. (250 words) 15

जब भुखमरी की बात आती है, भारत को प्रचुरता के विरोधाभास का सामना करना पड़ता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, उन उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए, जिनके माध्यम से इस चिंता का समाधान किया जा सकता है।

Despite overflowing godowns, a vast majority of Indian population still go to bed every night on an empty stomach.

Paradox of Plenty

* Storage spaces available with FCI and other Nat agencies are full
  - due to MSP; open ended procurement policy of FCI
  - lack of auto-liquidation guidelines of offloading grains in open market
  - As a result food grains often rot or eaten by rodents.
  - Total 88MMT storage capacity available.

* But hunger still persist despite NFSA 2013 cover 67% of population (75% of rural population and 50% of urban population).

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Reason for persistant hunger.

↳ Inclusion and Exclusion error in Public Distribution System.

↳ Corruption in PDS - grains often diverted to open market - black marketing.

↳ Hidden Hunger

↳ Ignored nutritious crops such as millets,

↳ Staple grain fundamentalism — nutrient rich crops ignored due to assured market and price with certain cereals.

Ways to address the challenge

↳ Universalisation of PDS benefits along with Sharing of affluent sections to give up their benefits — as done in LPG subsidy (PAHAL).

— Tamil Nadu implements universal PDS.

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↳ Address Hidden Hunger — shift cropping patterns in favour of coarse grains such as millets, barley etc.

— Fortification including bio-fortification.

↳ Upscale MidDay meal scheme — include other diets such as egg for meeting protein requirement.

↳ Increase accessibility, affordability, sufficiency and utilization of food grains.

Right to Food is a derived fundamental right (Supreme Court in PUCL vs. Union of India). Government must take proactive steps to address hunger and malnutrition on a war footing.

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

18. What is the role of wage employment in alleviating poverty? How is the MGNREGA different from the earlier Wage Employment Programmes in India? (250 words) 15

निर्धनता उन्मूलन में मजदूरी रोजगार की क्या भूमिका है? मनरेगा (MGNREGA) भारत में पहले के मजदूरी रोजगार कार्यक्रमों से कैसे भिन्न है?

India lifted 271 million people out of poverty between 2006-2016. In this task, the wage employment has played an important role. But still around 369 million live in poverty.

Wage employment refers to job opportunities with salaries and other monetary benefits. E.g. MGNREGA.

Role of wage employment

↳ Assured source of income — income security

↳ Creates demand at the bottom — essential to drive the engine of growth

↳ Essential to eliminate income poverty.

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↳ Additional source of revenue due to indirect taxes — could in turn be utilised for poverty alleviation programme.

MGNREGA
- guaranteed 100-days wage employment to each household.
- build rural amenities and other infrastructure.

MGNREGA is different

↳ Unemployment allowance is provided if suitable work could not be allocated.

↳ 60:40 wage to material ratio is maintained

↳ Work provided in a certain radius from the place of residence.

↳ legal sanction ~~under~~ behind MGNREGA

Besides wage employment, self-employment generation activities like that under DAY-NRLM, DAY-NULM, Stand-up India Mission as well as training mission

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Such as DDU-GKY, Skill India are also important for sustained fight against poverty.

In spirit of Article 39 of Constitution, multi-dimensional steps must be taken to eliminate all forms of poverty — Crucial to achieve $5 trillion economy by 2024 US.

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19. China's aggressiveness in recent times presents not only challenges to India but also opportunities to strengthen itself internationally and domestically. Discuss. (250 words) 15

हाल के दिनों में चीनी आक्रामकता न केवल भारत के लिए चुनौतियां खड़ी करती है बल्कि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय और घरेलू स्तर पर अपने आपको सशक्त बनाने का अवसर भी प्रदान करती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Rise of China and its muscular postur globally is both a challenge and an opportunity for India.

China's aggressiveness

- Border conflict in western sector.
- Pursue of one-China policy
  - recent Hong Kong protests.
- Territorial claims in South China sea
- Military incursions in Indian Ocean
  - building ports and bases eg. Djibouti, Hambantota etc
- Disregard for International law

Reasons for rising aggressiveness

- Retrenchment of USA
- Rise of India as a pole
- Large domestic economy
- Financial capacity to influence countries, eg. BRI
- Domestic compulsions – to maintain credibility of CP.

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[Challenges to India]

↳ Threatened territorial sovereignty - recent clashes in Galwan valley.

↳ Excessive import dependence on China — especially for APIs for pharma industry.
— Trade Deficit skewed towards China.

↳ China-Pakistan nexus aggravates security problem in the neighbour.

↳ Hijack of China into India's sphere of influence
— Military bases of China in all South India Ocean Littoral.
— BRI projects and technical cooperation with neighbour.
- Recently, Nepal-China inked rail connectivity project.

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Opportunities

- Build domestic manufacturing capacity - through ~~reingeering~~ Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan
- Attract companies relocating from China
  - participate in global and regional supply chains
- Project itself internationally as an international player - build regard for international law.
- Augment its strategic and military capacity (threat of two-front war scenario).

India believes that the world has enough space for both India and China. But our policies must be rooted in realpolitik and handle China accordingly. India must also use its terms in United National Security Council and WHO, WTO as chairman wisely

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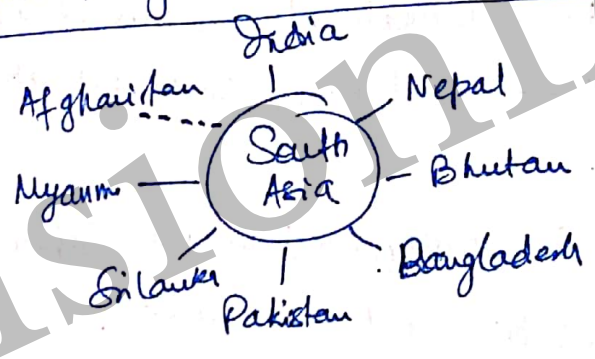
20. Trade and connectivity hold the key for India to better engage its neighbours. Examine the opportunities and challenges in South Asia in this context. **(250 words) 15**

व्यापार और कनेक्टिविटी, भारत के लिए अपने पड़ोसियों से बेहतर तरीके से जुड़ने का सामर्थ्य रखती है। इस संदर्भ में दक्षिण एशिया में अवसरों और चुनौतियों का परीक्षण कीजिए।

Despite considerable potential due to large population, similar demographic and social profile, South Asia is considered one of the least integrated regions of the world.



Opportunities in South Asia.

↳ Cross Border Trade in goods, services, electricity

- SAARC is a relevant platform;
- South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA).
- Full potential could not be tapped due

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to mutual suspicion among neighbours; State sponsored terrorism by Pakistan.

↳ Connectivity projects. – all the countries are geographically connected by land except Sri Lanka.

– Trade and connectivity go hand in hand.

– Due to suboptimal engagement in Trade and connectivity, bilateral relations not reaching full potential

– Potential for Development of India's North East region due to connectivity projects. ~~[illegible]~~.

~~– China~~

Challenges in South Asia.

* Mutual hostility and suspicion biggest factor for lack of holistic cooperation.
* Chinese interference in India's sphere of influence through BRI projects — CPEC issue
* A SAARC motor vehicle Agreement was stalled due to Pakistan.

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* Developing countries in the region lack technical and financial wherewithal to ramp up connectivity and trade projects.

* Technical and Regulatory issues for cross-border trade in electricity which holds huge potential.

* Trade Agreements like those with Sri Lanka have not reached its full potential.

* Poverty and Hunger is widespread in the region (Global Hunger Index).

India must take the leading role in engaging with like-minded neighbours to boost trade and connectivity. It must quickly finalise pending projects and find alternative source of financing regional infrastructure such as utilize Blue Dot Network of the QUAD by participating in it.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1419)

Name of Candidate	SOURAV SINHA		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	458407
Center	ONLINE	Date	

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
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12	15	
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14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. Highlighting the issues associated with power discoms in India, discuss whether privatizing discoms can help in this regard. (150 words) 10

भारत में विद्युत वितरण कंपनियों (डिस्कॉम्स) से जुड़े मुद्दों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या डिस्कॉम्स के निजीकरण से इस संबंध में सहायता मिल सकती है।

The deteriorating health of power discos in India hinders our ability to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7 (Affordable and clean Energy).

Issues with power discos
- Huge Accumulated Debt (Issue of ADR (Aggregate Demand for Revenue).
- High Aggregate Transmission and Commercial Losses (AT&C).
- States reneging on Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)
- Weak internal generation of resources
- Gap between Average Cost and Average Revenue Realized (ARR).

Privatising the Discos.

Pros
- Can bring efficiency in operations.
- Harness good management capacities of private entities.

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↳ Use of Franchise or Agency model can help to enhance its business in the rural sector.

↳ Capital investment as discos are scare in it

Cons

↳ won't solve the problem of the accumulated debt in a sustainable way.

↳ Problems associated with ease of doing business - for this governance processes needs to be simultaneously reformed.

Thus, apart from privatising discoms certain other steps must be taken e.g. use of High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) to prevent theft, capital infusion by the government, introduction of capacity market, use of aerial bundling to reduce AT&C losses and also dedicated finance windows in public and private sector banks.

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2. Harnessing Smart Agriculture can potentially be a game-changer for farm productivity in India. Discuss. (150 words) 10
स्मार्ट कृषि का दोहन संभवतः भारत में कृषि उत्पादकता के लिए निर्णायक सिद्ध हो सकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Smart Agriculture refers to the application of advanced technological tools such as Nano-Technology, Biotechnology, Space Tech, Artificial Intelligence etc to bring about increase in productivity.

Article 48 also directs state to organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific line.

Potential of Smart Agriculture

* Increase Farm Productivity

↳ with tools like Precision Agriculture; Carbon nanotubes for enhanced seed emergence.

↳ Sensors and use of Machine Learning can anticipate various stressors and also recommend suitable fertilizers which need to be incorporated.

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↳ Agri mapping through use of remote sensing and GIS based satellite → help in data-driven policy mapping.

↳ Use of Internet of Things so that farm machinery can be remotely operated

↳ will augment human labour and help to make agriculture an entrepreneurial activity.

↳ Global participation like GCSA (Global Coalition on Smart Agriculture) → help in mutual learning.

But India needs to substantially increase public investment in agriculture as recommended by National Commission on Farmers to make smart Agriculture a new reality.

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3. Rather than focusing solely on quantity, inclusive growth concerns itself with the quality of growth. Discuss. (150 words) 10

केवल परिमाण पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने के बजाय समावेशी विकास, संवृद्धि की गुणवत्ता के साथ भी अपना सरोकार रखता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Inclusive growth refers to the process and the outcome where every section of the population have participated and benefitted out the development process.

Forms of Inclusive growth

Quantity of Growth	Quality of Growth
* No. of people lifted out of poverty – India lifted 271 M people between 2006-16.	* Whether urban-rural divide in poverty is bridged or not – India is among 3 countries where poverty reduction in rural areas outpaced in urban areas.
* Gross Enrolment Ratio in education – Girls are in parity with boys at all levels (UNESCO report).	* Whether social divided in development outcomes is bridged or not

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* No. of people involved in gainful employment
* No. of people with their own houses (PM Awas yojana envisages universal coverage).
* Coverage of insurance, internet penetration and financial inclusion.

- Still more than 39% of BPL population are Scheduled Tribes
- More than 40% of OBC children are stunted.

* Bridging digital divided between rural-urban and male-female
  - 55:35 is male:female ratio of internet user.
* Whether the banking accounts under PMJDY are used or not.

Article 38 and 39 of the Indian Constitution also envisages quality inclusion by directing the state to bridge income inequality and wealth inequality.

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4. In the backdrop of Atmanirbhar Bharat, discuss the core areas crucial in export promotion for India to become a manufacturing hub.
(150 words) 10

आत्मनिर्भर भारत की पृष्ठभूमि में, भारत के लिए एक विनिर्माण केंद्र बनने हेतु निर्यात संवर्धन में महत्वपूर्ण मुख्य क्षेत्रों (कोर एरिया) की विवेचना कीजिए।

India targets to increase total exports from the current level of $314 Billion to $800 Billion by 2022.

Steps taken for export
- → Merchandise Export from India Scheme
- → Trade Infra Export Scheme (TIES)
- → Niryat Bandhu
- → EPCG scheme
- → Advanced Authorization

↓ Atmanirbhar Bharat

Core Areas crucial in export Promotion

* Ease of Doing Business:- with simpler regulations and business-friendly policies — India ranks 63 in World Bank's EDOB index.

* Increase public investment in infrastructure development:- to improve logistical facilities. India ranks 44 in Logistics Development Index.

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* Industrial relations :- setup of labour tribunals for faster resolution of labour disputes.

* EXIM Bank :- enhance capital base of the exim bank.

* Trade facilitation :- through pro-active implementation of National trade facilitation Policy. Also increase awareness about the free trade agreements.

* Integrate into the Regional value chains and Global value chains.

* Invest in the Market Intelligence.

There is need to implement the recommendations of High level Advisory Group on Trade under the Commerce Ministry, and also the recommendations of Economic Survey 2018-19 such as integrate Aspirational India into Make in India.

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5. Arsenic pollution is becoming a severe environmental issue in India. Enumerating its various sources, discuss the consequences and measures to tackle it. (150 words) 10

आर्सेनिक प्रदूषण भारत में एक गंभीर पर्यावरणीय मुद्दा बनता जा रहा है। इसके विभिन्न स्रोतों को सूचीबद्ध करते हुए, इसके परिणामों और इससे निपटने के उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Arsenic pollution has increased tremendously in the past few decades

Sources of Arsenic Pollution

↳ Industrial wastes are often released untreated.

↳ Heavy extraction of groundwater enriches heavy metal by providing suitable oxidising condition. — such as Arsenic and Uranium.

↳ Natural sources such as volcanic eruption also contributes to heavy metal pollution.

Consequences of Arsenic

↳ Contamination of soil and groundwater.

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↳ Health Outcomes and diseases such as Hai-Hai, diseases.

Measures to tackle it.

↳ Strict regulation of industrial wastes and mandate to properly treat them.

↳ Groundwater recharge and Groundwater extraction fee.

↳ Piped water must be monitored strictly.

↳ Collaboration between state and central government to effectively tackle it.

Arsenic pollution hinders our ability to achive SDG 3 (Good Health) and SDG 15 (Life on land).

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6. The Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) can invigorate the renewable energy sector in India. Evaluate. (150 words) 10
ग्रीन टर्म अहेड मार्केट (GTAM) भारत में नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा क्षेत्रक को सुदृढ़ बना सकता है। मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

India targets to achive Renewable Energy Capacity of 175 GW by 2022 and 450 GW by 2030.

For this, Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) can prove to be a potential Game changer.

Potential

→ Create a nationwide market in RE
→ Develop future trading in RE
→ Develop capacity market in the future as recommended by NITI Aayog.

GTAM is a good step towards harnessing SDG Goal 7 and achive energy security for the country

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VisionIAS

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7. In context of the increasing importance of technology for disaster management, throw some light on the application of GIS and Remote Sensing in disaster management with specific examples from India.
(150 words) 10

आपदा प्रबंधन के लिए प्रौद्योगिकी के बढ़ते महत्व के संदर्भ में, भारत से विशिष्ट उदाहरणों को प्रस्तुत करते हुए आपदा प्रबंधन में जी.आई.एम. और सुदूर संवेदन के अनुप्रयोग पर कुछ प्रकाश डालिए।

Use of advanced technology is of paramount importance in dealing with the future disaster

Application GIS and Remote Sensing

↳ Flood Warning Systems
Leg. C-Flows in Chennai
↳ monitor Water levels and river flows and give insights into the future trajectory of the flood.

↳ Tsunami Warning Systems.
↳ through study of near-shore and bathymetric data.
Leg Indian Tsunami Early Warning System (ITEWS)

VisionIAS

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↳ Monitoring of Drought

↳ through data related to moisture content in the soil and other related stressors.

↳ Weather Forecast technology used by IMD also pivotal in anticipation any possible disasters.

India must invest heavily in increasing in Disaster Resilience through use of technology.

VisionIAS

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8. The CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors have revolutionized the genome editing technique with applications in various areas. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

क्रिस्पर/कैस9 (CRISPR/Cas9) आनुवंशिक कैंची द्वारा विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में अनुप्रयोगों के साथ जीनोम संपादन तकनीक में क्रांतिकारी परिवर्तन का संचार किया गया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

CRISPR refers to Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats.

CRISPR/Cas 9 → genomic scissors which can edit certain parts of the DNA and genes.

→ Genomes can be cut out, inserted or inserted to introduce certain traits in them.

Applications

↳ Cure for several genetic diseases such as Haemophilia etc which occurs because of certain genetic mutations.

↳ Personalised healthcare - design of person-specific drugs and procedures as different genetic makup reacts differently to different drug.

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

↳ Development of Drugs and vaccines in a short span

↳ Development of High yielding variety seeds resistant to pests and diseases and other stresses - key to ensure future food security

However there are several ethical issues involved in the technology such as development of designer babies, develop bio-weapons for future warfare and information asymmetry between scientists and general community about the possible ill-effects of CRISPR-CAS 9.

VisionIAS

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

9. Bring out the role played by Financial Action Task Force in tackling the menace of money laundering. (150 words) 10
धन-शोधन के खतरे से निपटने में वित्तीय कार्रवाई कार्य बल द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका को स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Money laundering refers to illicit channeling of black money so that it appears to be derived from legitimate processes.

Placement → Layering → Introduction in general economy

~~Layering~~

(Money laundering)

More than 2-5% of world GDP is laundered globally. annually.

Role played by FATF

↳ Platform where like-minded countries can collaborate towards this cross-country issue.

↳ Through several tools such as Black list, Grey list etc, FATF encourages countries to adapt effective national policies towards tackling money-laundering

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eg. Pakistan has been placed in the Grey list

↳ Sharing of information, awareness and technical wherewithal among various stakeholders.

↳ Raise awareness among international community,

India has also taken several steps to curb money laundering such as

- Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA 2002)
- Benami Prohibitions Transactions Act
- NDPS Act
- Enforcement Directorate

India must play a proactive role in international efforts to tackle ML such as Asia-Pacific group, ~~RAS~~ RATS of SCO etc

VisionIAS

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

10. Discuss the recent reforms that have been undertaken in the National Security Architecture of India. (150 words) 10
भारत की राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा संरचना में हाल ही में किए गए सुधारों की विवेचना कीजिए।

Regular and far-sighted reform in National Security Architecture is sine-qua-non to ensure National Security.

National Security Architecture
- → Ministry of Defence
- → Cabinet Committee on Security
- → Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air)
- → Paramilitary Forces (eg. CRPF, BCB).
- → Intelligence Agencies (RAW, IB).
- → Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

Recent reforms undertaken

↳ Formation of the post of CDS - to bring about greater synergy between civil bureaucracy and military personnel.

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↳ Removal of redundant units such as Military Farm.

↳ Introduction of the concept of Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs) – for swift deployment of armed forces in a conflict scenario.

↳ Implementation of the recommendations of Shekatkar Committee on Defence Reform e.g. GOCO model.

→ FDI liberalised to 74% in defence manufacturing

Besides, India needs an overarching mother document on National Security Strategy to provide a vision which guides us into the future of National Security

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

11. Bring out the key hurdles that are being faced in accomplishing land reforms in India. Also, discuss the advantages which can be reaped by accomplishing them in contemporary times. (250 words) 15

भारत में भूमि सुधारों को पूरा करने में सामना की जा रही प्रमुख बाधाओं को स्पष्ट कीजिए। साथ ही, समकालीन समय में इन्हें पूरा करने से होने वाले लाभों की भी विवेचना कीजिए।

Land reforms refers to the process of organising agrarian relations and ownership patterns of land resources.

Aim of land reforms
- → Provide ownership to actual cultivators (Zamindari Abolition)
- → Tenancy regulation.
- → Enhance productivity. (by land consolidation etc.
- → Achieve social justice and principles of Article 39.

Hurdles faced by Land Reforms.

* Lack of political enthusiasm among the State governments (Land is a state subject)
* Resistance by powerful landed aristocracy (also landholder – politician – bureaucrats nexus).

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

* Loopholes misused by the landed classes
  - e.g. registration of land in the name of family and relatives to escape Ceiling laws.

* Absence of a properly updated and accessible land records system.

* Absence of ~~tenancy~~ leasing market in many states
  → >25 million hectares of land lies fallow.

Advantages from Land Reforms

* Proper functioning of Contract Farming and Land leasing markets → increase farm productivity and enhance social mobility.

* Reduce distress among farmers - investment is hampered due to lack of ownership in land.

* Consolidation of landholding → enhance productivity (avg size is 1.08 ha in India)

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* Credit can be channelized to tenants and cultivators in a more targetted manner.
* Achive social justice and lift the remaining 369M out of poverty in a more inclusive manner

Govt has taken several steps towards land reforms such as National Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme; Use of Bhuvan (ISRO) for Ground truthing, Model Land Leasing Act by T. Haque Committee.

VisionIAS

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

12. India needs to accord more significance to nutritional security than food security. Comment. In this context, suggest a framework that should be adopted by the government to achieve nutritional self-reliance.

(250 words) 15

भारत को खाद्य सुरक्षा की तुलना में पोषण सुरक्षा को अधिक महत्व देने की आवश्यकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, वह रूपरेखा भी बताइए जिसे सरकार द्वारा पोषण संबंधी आत्मनिर्भरता प्राप्त करने के लिए अपनाया जाना चाहिए।

Recently, India was ranked 94 in the Global Hunger Index..

Food Security	Nutritional Security
* Focuses primarily on Calorie intake of food.	* Focuses on nutritional quality of food intake.
* Absence of food security leads to issue of hunger	* Absence leads to malnutrition and hidden hunger.

Status of Hunger and Malnutrition in India.

* According to FAO report, more than 14.5% of people are undernourished.
* More than 80% adults suffer from hidden hunger - i.e. lack of adequate micro- and macro-nutrients.

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* 53.1% of women in reproductive age are anaemic.

Need to give more significance to nutritional security.

↳ Essential for long-term good health and well-being.

↳ Boost immunity and reduce the ~~out of pocket~~ burden on curative healthcare

↳ Sustainably harness demographic dividend.

↳ Reduce the prevalence of stunting, wasting, anaemia and Infant Mortality Rate.

Framework to achieve nutritional self-reliance

* Promote Agricultural Diversity :- Need to move away from staple grains to more nutrient rich diets such as millets.

* Development of agro-regional belts for production of horticultural crops.
  — Poshan Atlas is a right step.

VisionIAS

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* Fortification and Biofortification of food
  - ↳ In line with copenhagen consensus.
  - ↳ Introduce it in PDS scheme also.

* Reorient subsidy pattern and incentivize farmers to move away from monoculture practices.

* Invest in infrastructure and warehousing/cold storage facilities and also invest in food processing.

In the spirit of Article 47 and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), India has taken several proactive steps such as National Nutrition Mission; Poshan Atlas, Fortification of foods such as Iodised Salt (+E) etc. to achieve greater nutritional security.

VisionIAS

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

13. Private investments are key for India to move into a high growth trajectory. Discuss. Also highlight the steps taken by the government in recent times to address the fall in private investments. (250 words) 15

निजी निवेश भारत के लिए उच्च संवृद्धि पथ पर आगे बढ़ने हेतु महत्वपूर्ण हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, निजी निवेश में गिरावट को दूर करने के लिए हाल के दिनों में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों को भी रेखांकित कीजिए।

A robust and pro-active private participation and investment is necessary in order to achive $5 trillion economy by 2025.

Need for Private Investment

↳ limited resources available with the public exchequer.

↳ Imperative to investment by public for welfare tasks such as poverty reduction to achieve social justice.

↳ Bring about greater efficiency and industry in infrastructural development.

↳ Decrease the Incremental Capital to output ratio — to increase productivity levels.

VisionIAS

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Steps Taken by the government in recent time

↳ Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) liberalized across various sectors such as Coal mining, defence (74%) and other key areas

↳ Various reforms to enhance Ease of Doing Business in India.

↳ easier registration through single SPICE form.

↳ Handholding of investors to sail them through regulatory hurdles.

↳ Investment in Infrastructure to ease the logistical constraints

↳ e.g. National Infrastructure Pipeline

↳ Easier port and cargo clearance, eg ICEDASH portal.

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Moreover a dedicated PPP law, PPP adjudication etc are required as suggested by Vijay Kelkar Committee.

VisionIAS

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

14. India's geographical diversity and varied levels of development across regions necessitate a targeted region specific action plan to ensure a minimum acceptable level of prosperity. Elaborate. **(250 words) 15**

भारत की भौगोलिक विविधता और विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में विकास के भिन्न-भिन्न स्तर समृद्धि के एक न्यूनतम स्वीकार्य स्तर को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक लक्षित क्षेत्र विशिष्ट कार्य योजना को आवश्यक बनाते हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

India is a land of great diversity and the approach of development needs to be equally diverse.

The Constitution of India also envisages this facet by incorporating in itself 'asymmetric federalism' among its features.

Region-specific Action Plan

* North East States and 8 sister
  - ↳ Forested and pristine lands.
  - ↳ Gateway to South-East Asia.
  - ↳ Issue of insurgency.

Approach needed

- ↳ Promotion of eco-tourism.
- ↳ Infrastructure Dev/ Connectivity Projects.

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* BIMARU states

↳ low in various parameters of social development

↳ issue of poverty.

Approach

↳ Human Resource Development

↳ Focus on Gainful Employment.

* North Indian states of J&K

↳ issue of separatism, unsettled border.

Approach

↳ focus on border population

↳ Build a culture of tolerance and national integration.

* Island Territories.

↳ Geographical Isolation

↳ low resources.

Approach

↳ Develop as tourist destination

↳ Food processing industries

↳ Development as Military Bases

VisionIAS

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* Peninsula and South Indian states.

↳ High literacy and general prosperity

Approach

↳ Development of specific underdeveloped regions such as Marathwada, parts of Telangana etc.

* Western states.

Approach

↳ Industrial promotion

↳ thrust on manufacturing as there are well developed sea ports.

A basic level of development must be ensured in all the regions in the spirit of SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities) and our Constitutional ethos

VisionIAS

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

15. Empowering the farmers by ensuring barrier-free trade in the agriculture produce is critical in doubling their incomes. Enumerating the existing bottlenecks, discuss how the recent legislations can help in overcoming them. (250 words) 15

कृषि उपज का निर्बाध व्यापार सुनिश्चित करके किसानों का सशक्तीकरण करना उनकी आय दोगुनी करने में महत्वपूर्ण है। वर्तमान बाधाओं का उल्लेख करते हुए, चर्चा कीजिए कि इन पर नियंत्रण पाने में हालिया अधिनियम कैसे सहायता कर सकते हैं।

India aims to double farmers income by 2022.

Barrier Free Trade is instrumental

* Bridge gaps in timely price discovery
* To ensure remuneration returns and revenue realisation
* Integrated agri-logistics essential for smooth transfer of products particularly perishables (Ashok Dalwai Committee had stressed on this point.
* Remove the issue of middle-man and cartelisation in the APMC mandis
* Make crop choices based on market conditions and demand.

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Existing Bottlenecks.

* APMC law in the states. – mandates selling of products in a particular mandi

* Issue of middleman ~~reduces the~~ increases the gap between farm gate price and price paid by consumers.

* Reduce post harvest losses and ensure good prices.

Government has brought in Farm laws to ensure barrier free trade.

↳ Freedom to sale products depending on farmers' choices.

↳ Bridge the asymmetry between consumer price and farm gate price.

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Besides recommendations of National Commission on Farmers is needed to be implemented to make agriculture a a sustainable business.

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16. The reasons for recurring floods in the regions of Eastern India such as Bihar and Assam go far beyond their topography. Discuss. Also, suggest measures to control this menace. (250 words) 15

बिहार और असम जैसे पूर्वी भारत के क्षेत्रों में बार-बार आने वाली बाढ़ के लिए केवल उनकी स्थलाकृति उत्तरदायी नहीं हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इस खतरे को नियंत्रण में लाने के उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।

India is the 2nd most vulnerable country in terms of flooding. More than 40 million hectares (~12%) of landmass is prone to flooding in India.

Reasons for Recurring Flood in Eastern India.

↳ Frequent course-shifting of rivers
↳ excessive siltation of alluvial rivers.

↳ Heavy monsoonal rainfall - more than 2/3rd of rainfall received during monsoon months.

↳ Sand mining :- decreases the carrying capacity of the rivers → more flood.

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↳ Encroachment on flood plains – increasing human settlements in levees.

↳ Plastic Pollution and other wastes reduces the natural drainage of the river.

↳ Human activities such as religious congregations, submergence of idols → concretisation of river.

Measures needed to control the menace

* Draft a comprehensive River Regulation Zone Act to regulate human activities in the sensitive region.
* Scientific planning to install structural measures such as dams, etc to sustainably use the flood water.
* Regulate sand mining – use of space-tech and remote sensing to monitor the activities.

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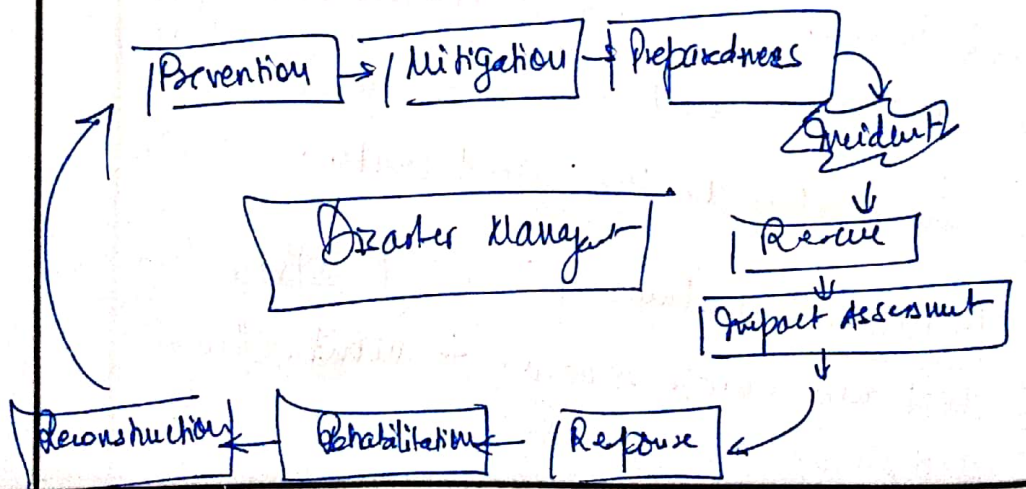
* Appoint a legal guardian in each sensitive districts - accord legal status to rivers such as Kosi in Bihar and Brahmaputra in Assam.

* Implement NDMA guidelines which recommends various structural, non-structural, technological measures to handle riverine flooding.

* Stakeholder awareness and a culture of preparedness as recommended by JC Pant Committee.

National Policy on Disaster Management recommends DM as a continuous process



VisionIAS

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17. How can 5G technology potentially bring about a digital revolution in India? Identify the challenges in adoption of 5G technology in India.

(250 words) 15

5G प्रौद्योगिकी संभावित रूप से भारत में एक डिजिटल क्रांति कैसे ला सकती है? भारत में 5जी प्रौद्योगिकी को अपनाने में आने वाली चुनौतियों की पहचान कीजिए।

5G or 5th generation technology is an advancement in data transfer and telecommunication technology

5G	4G
* High data transfer speed * Low latency * Optical fibre-based technology.	- Low speed - High latency.

Potential to bring about Digital Revolution

* Makes Internet of Things a reality - through seamless connection between several physical components

VisionIAS

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* Pivotal tool for telemedicine and telesurgery — bridges the gaps in doctoral availability

* Reach the remotest and farthest corner — for universal digital inclusion.

* Online generation and transmission of education content becomes faster and reliable

Challenges in India.

* Investment Deficit - 5G requires overhaul of existing telecommunication infrastructure such as mobile towers etc.

* Costly spectrum policy in India

* ~~Debt~~ Deteriorating health of Telecom Service Providers (TSP) and limited ~~fo~~ private investment to overhaul & communication architecture.

VisionIAS

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* Import Dependency on Critical 5G Equipments is high – eg. issue of Huawei in 5G trials.

* High frequency of 5G makes it susceptible to physical blockage.

Greater public investment and greater PPP's will be instrumental in adoption of 5G in India.

VisionIAS

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

18. Besides computing, quantum technology has potential applications in various areas. Discuss. What are the challenges which lie ahead for effective utilization of quantum technology? **(250 words) 15**

संगणना के अतिरिक्त, क्वांटम प्रौद्योगिकी के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में संभाव्य अनुप्रयोग हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। क्वांटम प्रौद्योगिकी के प्रभावी उपयोग के समक्ष आने वाली चुनौतियां क्या हैं?

Quantum Technology refers to the use of quantum mechanics (or which harnesses the properties of smallest of atoms) and use Qubits for computing and other purposes.

Recently, Google's Sycamore is touted as the world's first quantum computer.

Applications of quantum technology

↳ Superfast computation - even faster than current fastest supercomputer

↳ Use in secure transmission of information
- enhanced cybersecurity
- application in other areas of cryptography

VisionIAS

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↳ Application in Mine Detection
- eg. use of SQUIDS (Quantum Interference Devices)

↳ Use in energy generation
↳ artificial leaves producing oxygen based on quantum technology.
- Quantum Dots.

↳ Space Technology and research of the cosmos.

Challenges that lie ahead

↳ Many of the applications are still in research stage.

↳ Commercial introduction can be quite expensive of several quantum products.

↳ Quantum research ready Human Resources are in short supply — many scientists

VisionIAS

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

prefer more safe and established disciplines

↳ Issue of funding by national governments and international collaborations.

India must be proactive in leveraging the potential of quantum technology by investing in R&D, training and devise a strategy into the future of Quantum.

VisionIAS

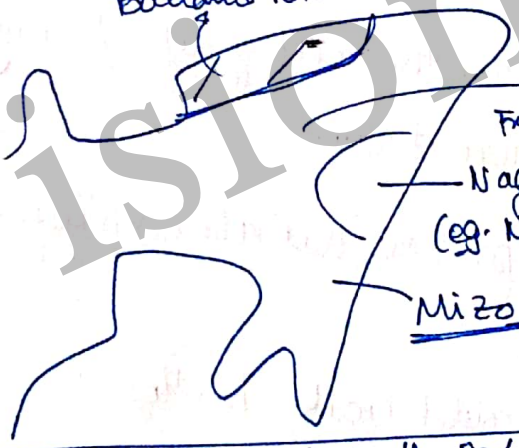
Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

19. While most insurgent groups in North-East India have given up violence and are engaged in peace talks with the government, a number of issues could create hurdles in the future. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

जहाँ पूर्वोत्तर भारत में अधिकांश विद्रोही गुटों ने हिंसा छोड़ दी है और सरकार के साथ शांति वार्ता में संलग्न हैं, वहीं अनेक ऐसे मुद्दे हैं जो भविष्य में बाधाएं उत्पन्न कर सकते हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

North East India faces the immense challenge of insurgency movements which has also impacted its developmental outcomes greatly.

Bodoland Territorial Area Dispute (NDFB)



- United Liberal Front of Assam (ULFA).
- Naga Rebels (eg. NSCN-K).
- Mizo Issue.

Insurgency in North East

Insurgents giving up violence

- National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDBF) gave up violence and involved in peace talk.
- NSCN-IM faction also involved in Naga Peace Talks.

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Reasons for giving up violence

↳ Clampdown on the insurgent groups
- also contribution by foreign countries
eg. Operation Sunrise by Myanmar, Operation All Clear by Bhutan.

↳ Source of financing curtailed

↳ Loss of support among locals due to development carried out by GoI.

↳ Fatigue among the rebel groups & urge to return to mainstream.

↳ Dialogue process has also contributed.

Issues which could create hurdles

↳ Self are compromises are worked out during talks and all the demands could not be fulfilled
- eg. demand for Greater Nagalim or independent Naga flag.

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↳ Lack of inclusive development particularly in the North east

↳ Financial and ideological support by foreign governments act as fuel to the fire.

↳ Geographical proximity to the Golden Triangle makes a lucrative barriers for rebel groups.

To ensure sustained peace in the North east region, wholesome development must be carried out touching every aspects of their lives. 2nd ARC Report on Conflict Resolution also suggests several important steps that needs to be taken for the challenges in North east.

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20. Identifying the key vulnerabilities in India's cyberspace, discuss the framework which should be adopted in the envisaged new cyber security policy in India. **(250 words) 15**

भारत के साइबर जगत में प्रमुख सुभेद्यताओं की पहचान करते हुए, उस रूपरेखा पर चर्चा कीजिए, जिसे भारत में परिकल्पित नई साइबर सुरक्षा नीति में अपनाया जाना चाहिए।

India was ranked 47 in Global Cyber Security Index. Also, India was ranked 3rd most vulnerable country in terms of cyber threats (Symantec's 2017 Report).

Key Vulnerabilities in India's cyberspace

* High import dependency on various critical equipments.
* Lack of credible code-breaking capacities.
* Limited participation and investment by the private players.
* Lack of an overarching Standards operating procedure (SOP) in dealing with a cyber attack which clarifies role of various agencies
* The National Cyber Coordination Centre lacks in executive powers.

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Don't write anything in margin (कृपया हाशिये में कुछ ना लिखें)

* Officials in the public sector often lacks the technical know-how and information about the evolving cyber space.

* Use of cyber space as a medium to fuel radicalisation and recruitment.

* Absence of a Data Privacy Law in India. Only draft has been proposed by Sri Krishna Committee.

Current Framework for Cyber security
- National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC)
- Cert-In
- National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection centre.
- IT Act

Required framework in the proposed Cyber Security law

↳ Role clarity of various organisations involved in cyberspace.

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

- An overarching PPP policy to engage private players.
- Indigenisation of various critical equipments by suitably scaling up Make in India
- Use of AI and ML to track suspicious activities.
- Human Resource Development to train the manpower and make them future ready.
- International Collaboration — eg. Budapest Convention, Russian-led cybercrime treaty, Christchurch Call for Action.

A robust and pro-active cybersecurity policy is sine-qua non to ensure the national security of India.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2212)

Name of Candidate	SOURAV SINHA		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	458407
Center	ONLINE	Date	09/08/22

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained: 6a

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi- 110009

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. What do you understand by 'constitutionalism'? Highlight various ways in which the Indian Constitution underscores this principle. **(150 words) 10**

'संविधानवाद' से आप क्या समझते हैं? भारतीय संविधान में इस सिद्धांत को रेखांकित करने वाले विभिन्न उपबंधों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Constitutionalism refers to the adherence to constitutional principles by limiting the powers of various organs of the government and delineating rights and duties of the citizens.

Ways in which the principle is highlighted in the constitution

(1) Fundamental Rights - which are enforceable in the courts of law (Article 32, 226).

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10 (2) Judicial Review Powers - with higher judiciary

(3) Principle of checks and balances

(4) Recognizing minority rights.

This has ultimately helped in preserving the unity and integrity of the Indian Union

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2. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) effectively reflects a shift from the era of Licence Raj to a conducive regulatory ambience for enhancing consumer welfare by encouraging competition in the market. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (CCI) बाजार में प्रतिस्पर्धा को प्रोत्साहित करके उपभोक्ता कल्याण को बढ़ाने के लिए लाइसेंस राज के युग से एक अनुकूल नियामकीय परिवेश में स्थानांतरण को प्रभावी ढंग से प्रदर्शित करता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

CCI was established through Competition Act 2002.

Purpose — enhance competition in the market by curbing monopolistic tendencies

Significance

* Enhance competition by promoting fair practices.
* Protect Consumer Rights
* Enhance Consumer Choices.

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(2) * More Competition ⇒ Process of creative destruction

* Promote innovation.

Issues

→ New challenges posed by technologies such as AI, Metaverse

→ Shortage of Personnel for implementation of its orders

Thus, it is time to reform CCI by amending the CCI Act 2002 to adjust to the challenges of the future.

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3. Mention various initiatives taken for online delivery of judicial services in India. Also, discuss the challenges faced in their implementation.

(150 words) 10

भारत में न्यायिक सेवाओं की ऑनलाइन प्रदायगी के लिए प्रारंभ विभिन्न पहलों का उल्लेख कीजिए। साथ ही, उनके कार्यान्वयन में आने वाली चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Online delivery of judicial services is key to increase effectiveness and swiftness of justice in the society.

Initiatives taken

1. e-Courts Mission Mode Project - for online filing and disposal.

2. SUVAAS - an AI software for translation of judgments in local language.

3. Virtual Courts, and Online Streaming of judicial proceedings

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3/8.

4. FASTER – for online transmission of bail order to police authorities

Challenges in the Implementation

1. Funding Gaps.
2. Shortage of trained personnel
3. Inadequate in-house expertise in the Courts – especially lower courts
4. Lack of will by the State Government
5. Issues of rights and privacy – especially in sensitive cases

Way
- → Use of AI/ML to dispose routine cases
- → Training of judges and administrative authorities
- → Create a dedicated fund for the purpose

Smart justice system will be a key for a Smart India

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

4. Bring out the similarities and differences in the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of the United States and Fundamental Rights in the Constitution of India. **(150 words) 10**

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के संविधान में उपबंधित बिल ऑफ राइट्स और भारत के संविधान में मूल अधिकारों के मध्य समानताओं और भिन्नताओं को रेखांकित कीजिए।

~~The oldest and the largest democracies~~

India and US share similarities as well as show differences in so far as the rights of citizens are concerned.

Similarities between Bill of Rights and Fundamental Rights

* A Comprehensive list of positive and negative rights
* Enforceable in Courts of law – judiciary can issue writs for restoration of the said rights

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Q. 4

Differences

* Rights such as Right against Untouchability (Article 17) not present in USA
* Earlier US rights didn't recognize rights of slaves and Black people, while Indian Rights were egalitarian from the start.
* ~~Ex. Sus~~ Suspension during emergency — unique feature in India while not present in the US.

Due recognition of the rights of citizens is sine qua non for the functioning of a stable democracy.

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5. It is often argued that the implementation of The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 has so far been tardy and ineffectual. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**
प्राय: यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि अभी तक वन अधिकार अधिनियम (FRA), 2006 का कार्यान्वयन धीमा और निष्प्रभावी रहा है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Forest Rights Act 2006 was enacted to protect the interests of forest dwellers and other traditional communities by granting individual and community rights over forest resources and produces.

However its implementation is tardy

Reasons :-

1. Resistance by forest bureaucracy
2. Lack of political will from the respective state governments.
3. Lack of information with the forest community and capacity to demand.

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(4) Development projects - necessity to occupy forest lands, e.g. river interlinking projects like Ken-Betwa.

(5) Recognition of individual as well as community rights is low.

(6) Lack of data, land records

(7) Issues in judiciary — justice delayed.

Way Forward

* Sensitise forest bureaucracy and fix accountability on them

* Digital maintenance of forest rights — use of Blockchain can be imagined.

* Capacity building and training of the local indigenous population.

FRA will go a long way to boost confidence among forest community and achieve inclusive growth.

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

6. Explain the rationale behind the creation of a Social Stock Exchange in India. Do you think this move would boost social impact investing in the country? **(150 words) 10**

भारत में सोशल स्टॉक एक्सचेंज के सृजन के पीछे निहित तर्क की व्याख्या कीजिए। क्या आपको लगता है कि इस कदम से देश में सामाजिक प्रभाव वाले निवेश को प्रोत्साहन प्राप्त होगा?

Social stock exchange are financial market institutions that allow NGOs and civil society organisations to raise capital for social works, e.g. housing, sanitation etc.

Rationale behind SSEs

1. Channel domestic as well as foreign savings for social purposes.
2. Market making for development industries who couldn't raise capital in traditional stock exchanges.
3. Boost impact investment and philanthropic activities in the country.

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Q.
6. (4) Deepen the Bond Market

(5) Enhance credibility of NGOs/CSOs.

(6) Build a general environment of social harmony by tackling development challenges

Yes, the creation of SSEs will go a long way in boosting social impact investing because of opportunities discussed above.

Issues
- Regulatory challenges.
- Difficult for small NGOs to participate
- Lack of knowledge among investors.
- Shallow bond market.

Way
- learn from international experience
- Grant full powers to SEBI.
- Make compliance less cumbersome for smaller NGOs to participate.

The success of SSEs will pave way for 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

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7. The National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) has the potential to bring a new revolution in India's health sector in multiple ways. Explain. (150 words) 10

राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य मिशन (NDHM) में भारत के स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्रक में कई तरह से एक नई क्रांति लाने की क्षमता है। व्याख्या कीजिए।

Newly proposed National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) can prove to be a true game changer for the health sector.

Potential of NDHM

1. Maintenance of online Health records
   - 1.1. Seamless retrieval by various stakeholders
   - 1.2. Doctors can easily access past medical records of patients.
   - 1.3. Insurance companies for deciding premium on health insurance.
   - 1.4. By government for making evidence-led policy and making suitable demographic interventions.

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3.7. 2. Use of New Age Tech like AI, Blockchain

2.1. for Research and Development purpose.

2.2. Developing personalised medicines.

2.3. Teleconsultation will be lot easier.

e.g. IBM's Watson.

2.4. Immutable health records using Blockchain - will make leakages in health scheme quite difficult.

3. Other

3.1. Effective management of pandemics.

3.2. Achieve the goal of One-Health.

However challenges remain

1. Lack of Data Protection law
2. Data Theft and Data Privacy
3. Lack of Capacity with public agencies.
4. Funding and regulatory issues.

NDHM will be a game pivotal to revamp our health sector and achieve Demographic Dividend.

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8. While participation of private sector in the higher education system of India is a necessity, it creates issues that need careful redressal. Discuss. (150 words) 10

हालांकि भारत की उच्चतर शिक्षा प्रणाली में निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी एक अनिवार्यता है, लेकिन यह ऐसे मुद्दे उत्पन्न करता है जिनका सावधानीपूर्वक निवारण किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

India spends only 1.6% its GDP on Education. Thus, participation of private sector in higher education is a necessity.

Significance of private sector

1. Complementary role in enhancing expenditure on education.

2. Enhance industry-academia linkages, especially when private industries invest in higher education.

3. Necessary Competition – increased diversity of players in the Knowledge ecosystem will motivate even public colleges to perform better.

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Issues with private participation

Q.

* High fees – creates divide between haves and have not, e.g. in private medical colleges
* Substandard level of education – many private engineering colleges were shut down by government last year.
* Unskilled and semi-skilled graduates – demographic burden.

Way Forward

* Expand Institute of Eminence (IOE) scheme to more colleges.
* Grant more autonomy to invite foreign players – students and teachers.
* Regulate fees – e.g. NMC Act regulate fees of medical colleges.

Careful assessment of private participation and swift redressal of issues is the right way forward.

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9. Highlighting the significance of Central Asia for India, discuss the challenges in strengthening the Indo-Central Asian relationship. **(150 words) 10**
भारत के लिए मध्य एशिया के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, भारत-मध्य एशियाई संबंधों को मजबूत करने के समक्ष विद्यमान चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

The Central Asian Republics present immense opportunities as well as diverse set of geopolitical challenges for India.

Significance

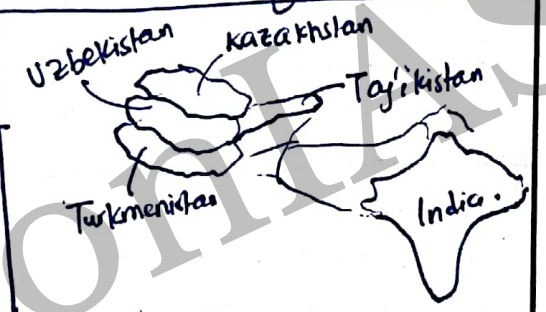

Fig. Central Asia and India

① Resource rich region, e.g. Rare Earth Metals etc.

② Huge Market for India's exports as well as field of investment for India's Capital

③ India's soft Power Influence in the region e.g. popularity of Bollywood films.

④ Significant partners in India's fight

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5. (9) against terrorism, extremism and radicalisation.

Challenges

(1) Geographical constraint – topographical barriers and rugged terrain

(2) Presence of Pakistan and Afghanistan makes building a land route difficult

(3) Increased influence of China – through BRI.

(4) Multilateral fora like Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) are ineffective.

Way Forward

(1) Expedite infrastructure projects like INSTC.

(2) Improve trade relations by formulating a Trade deal.

(3) Invite to India-centric multilateral fora like BIMSTEC, ISA, CDRI etc

A strong India-CAR relation will be key to shared prosperity in future.

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10. Discuss the role that the Indian diaspora can play in the making of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India). Also, mention the challenges in this regard. **(150 words) 10**

"आत्मनिर्भर भारत" के निर्माण में भारतीय डायस्पोरा द्वारा निभाई जा सकने वाली भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संबंध में विद्यमान चुनौतियों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

Indian Diaspora can play an effective role in India mission to become Atmanirbhar (Self-Reliant)

1. Knowledge sharing to the local industries
2. Handholding and support to MSMEs
3. Enhance FDI in critical sectors eg. health.
4. Remittances - help to build local resilience

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7.0 (5) Garner support of foreign players in the mission

However challenges remain

* Low involvement both from the part of diaspora as well as government
* Volatile geopolitical conditions is inducing reverse migration.
* Challenges in foreign universities - eg medical colleges in Ukraine

India must adopt a proactive approach by adopting a sector-wise policy on how to productively engage with diaspora

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11. A critical appraisal of the outcomes of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act underlines the need for second-generation reforms to strengthen decentralisation of urban local governance in India. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

74वें संविधान संशोधन अधिनियम के परिणामों का आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन भारत में शहरी स्थानीय शासन के विकेंद्रीकरण को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु दूसरी-पीढ़ी के सुधारों की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

74th Constitutional Amendment granted Constitutional recognition to the Urban Local Bodies (Municipalities) by adding Part IX A.

A critical Appraisal

Successes	Failures.
1. Increase political participation	1. States reluctant to devolve power.
2. Women empowerment - reservation of seats	2. weak internal generation of resources

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3. Devolution of Funds, Functions, Functionaries (3F's)	3. No equivalent body as Gram Sabha
4. ULBs being partners in implementation of govt. schemes	4. Parallel body like Parastatals
5. Resilience – eg. Kerala ULBs during Pandemic	5. Infrequent elections

Need for 2nd generation Reforms

- Balanced Regional Development
- New challenges – Pandemics
- Local issues need local solution – based on principle of subsidiarity.
- Empowerment of local communities through greater political participation

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Way Forward for ULBs

* Urban Consolidated Fund in every States
* Nudge states to devolve more power - through fiscal incentives
  - Create indices to rank states
* Create equivalent body in Urban areas as Gram Sabha - for enhanced citizen participation.
* Use of Technology by ULBs to become more efficient.

An effective local government will be a central pillar of the New India based on the goal of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas

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12. It is argued that unchecked and rampant exercise of the power to insert laws in the Ninth Schedule results in undermining of Constitutional supremacy and creation of Parliamentary hegemony. Do you agree? Justify your stand with logical arguments. **(250 words) 15**

यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि नौवीं अनुसूची में विधियों को सम्मिलित करने की शक्ति के अनियंत्रित और व्यापक स्तर पर प्रयोग से संवैधानिक सर्वोच्चता में कमी और संसदीय आधिपत्य का सृजन होता है। क्या आप सहमत हैं? उचित तर्कों के साथ अपने मत की पुष्टि कीजिए।

The laws inserted in the 9th schedule by the Parliament grants protection from being reviewed by the judiciary. However, Supreme Court in I.R. Coelho case ruled that it does not provide a blanket immunity from judicial review as it is a basic feature of the constitution

Yes, it creates Parliamentary hegemony and undermines Constitutional supremacy

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* Undermines Article ~~32~~ 13 ~~and 226~~ of the constitution — judicial review.

* Undermines the separation of powers and mutual checks and balances.

No it does not create Parliamentary Sovereignty

* Judiciary can still review — I.R. Coelho Case.

* Gives a headroom for Parliament to bypass unnecessary judicial interference (an activist judiciary).

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Both the organ must be mindful of the constitutional mandate protect to them and hence the issue around 9th Schedule must be handled in the same spirit

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13. Asymmetry is an important characteristic of federalism in India, which has helped in the accommodation of diverse demands inherent in our democracy. Discuss. (250 words) 15

असममिति भारत में संघवाद की एक महत्वपूर्ण विशेषता है, जिसने हमारे लोकतंत्र में निहित विविध मांगों के समायोजन में सहायता प्रदान की है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Federal Asymmetry is a principle which recognizes that different federal units must enjoy different rights and their relations with the union based on their relative situation.

Elements of Asymmetry in Indian Federalism and their significance

1. Special Treatment to North Eastern States (eg Schedule 6).
   * Counter insurgency and curb secessionist tendencies.
   * Recognition of unique tribal culture

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2. Schedule 5 areas also gives due autonomy to tribal areas in other States.
   → Popular participation in the democratic process induces confidence in the people
   → helps in their integration into the mainstream

3. Special Category States
   → for balanced regional development
   → Greater share of union grants helps to bring greater development

4. Special treatment to J&K (pre 2019)
   - Historical reasons to accommodate J&K into the Indian Union

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5. Part-IX of the Constitution (Panchayat) apply with modifications to tribal areas
- Eg. - through PESA Act.

Thus, the asymmetry has helped to preserve the integrity of the Indian Union by recognising diversity and accommodating them.

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14. In India, the Finance Commissions are established pursuant to the constitutional mandate. In this context, do you think the State Finance Commissions have been effective in promoting fiscal federalism? Substantiate with arguments. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में वित्त आयोगों की स्थापना संवैधानिक अधिदेश के अनुसार की जाती है। इस संदर्भ में, क्या आपको लगता है कि राज्य वित्त आयोग राजकोषीय संघवाद को बढ़ावा देने में प्रभावी रहे हैं? तर्कों के साथ पुष्टि कीजिए।

Article 280 of the Indian Constitution establishes a Finance Commission of India. Article 243-I establishes ~~fi~~ Finance Commissions of the states.

Thus, State Finance Commissions are constitutional bodies envisaged to promote fiscal federalism.

Salient Features

→ established by the Governor of the State every five years.

→ On the lines of FCI.

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→ recommends grants and distribution of revenues of states to the local level bodies – Panchayats and Municipalities.

→ advices on other matters as referred to by the Governor.

However, the performance of various SFCs has been lackadaisical

① Lack of technical and expert support

② Absence of financial data at the state levels and local levels – for meaningful recommendations.

③ Non-implementation of the advices by respective state government.

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(4) Lack of coordination between FCI and SFCs — for translating fiscal planning from Union to State to local level.

Way Forward

* Build in-house technical capacity for data-driven recommendations.
* Accountability on part of states for non-implementation of recommendation.
* Partnership with FCI — for mutual learning and holistic approach towards fiscal policy.

SFCs must be strengthened for achieving a strong fiscal architecture in India

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15. Reduction in the overall size of the bureaucracy has been seen as the underlying idea behind civil services reforms. Is it a good idea to reduce the size of the Indian bureaucracy? Examine in light of the experience of India. **(250 words) 15**

नौकरशाही के समग्र आकार में कमी को सिविल सेवाओं में सुधार के पीछे अंतर्निहित विचार के रूप में देखा गया है। क्या भारतीय नौकरशाही के आकार को कम करना एक उपयुक्त विचार है? भारत के अनुभव के आलोक में परीक्षण कीजिए।

Reduction in the Overall Size of bureaucracy is often mooted as a Key Idea in Civil Service Reforms.

Pros

↳ Greater Efficiency

↳ More Competition — 'Perform or Perish'.

↳ More accountability —

Currently large bureaucracy ⇒ diffusion of responsibility.

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↳ Savings for the public exchequer — currently large expenditure in salaries, pensions

↳ Expedite decision making — Currently too many points of decision nets in bureaucratic architecture

Cons

* Issue of representation of diverse section of population
* Upcoming new challenges due to disruptive technologies and India's role as a welfare state.

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* Increase in Work load ⇒ decrease in efficiency of the individual bureaucrat

* Check and Balances within an organisation will be reduced ⇒ Corruption might increase

Reduction in size of bureaucracy must be balanced against other reforms eg. lateral entry, greater training (IGOT), and critical appraisal (360° approach).

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16. There is a need to ensure better ethical standards, accountability and management of temples in India. Discuss in the context of issues associated with state intervention in management of temples. (250 words) 15

भारत में मंदिरों के बेहतर नैतिक मानकों, जवाबदेही और प्रबंधन को सुनिश्चित करने की आवश्यकता है। मंदिरों के प्रबंधन में राज्य के हस्तक्षेप से संबंधित मुद्दों के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Some of the temples in India are managed by the state, e.g. Tirupati Tirumala temple

Issues with state intervention

* Corruption among pandits and mahants
* Against secular characteristic.
* Unnecessary in many situation
* Might create conflict between bureaucracy and local population

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Necessity

* Address issue of corruption and wasteful expenditure
* Ensuring rights of devotees - eg women temple entry.
* Crowd management - law and order issue
* Planning expenditure of the temple earnings

State must be careful in handling religious issue but the interference is often warranted in the public interest.

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17. What do you understand by feminisation of old age? Highlight the issues associated with it in the Indian context. Also, mention the measures taken by the government in this regard. (250 words) 15

वृद्धावस्था के नारीकरण से आप क्या समझते हैं? भारतीय संदर्भ में इससे जुड़े मुद्दों पर प्रकाश डालिए। साथ ही, इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

Feminisation of old Age refers to a greater share of females in the elderly population.

Naturally, it is observed that in most of the ~~society~~ societies, the sex ratio in the 65+ years age group is skewed in favour of females.

Issues associated with feminisation of old age in India

* Lack of adequate Coverage of social security schemes like pension, insurance,

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(*) Emotional problems – mis-treatment by children and family – a high portion of elderly suffer from depression

(*) Nascent level of gerontology and Care economy in India.
– insufficient old-age care house.

(*) Lack of property rights with female make them especially vulnerable in old age.

Measures Taken
- → Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)
- → Old-Age Homes.
- → Laws to punish for mis-treatment by family members. (e.g. Domestic Violence Acts.
- → Rashtriya vayoshri Yojana

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Way Forward

* A National Commission to take up the issues associated with female elderly.

* Funding for R&D in gerontology suiting Indian context.

* Strengthen the network of old-age homes with strong regulatory architecture

To care for those who have once cared for us, is the greatest honour. In this spirit, every citizen must care for the elderly population

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18. Given its impact on both individual resilience and the resilience of the economy, is there a case for strong universal social protection in India? Discuss. (250 words) 15

व्यक्तिगत लचीलेपन और अर्थव्यवस्था की प्रत्यास्थता दोनों पर इसके प्रभाव को देखते हुए, क्या भारत में सुदृढ़ सार्वभौमिक सामाजिक सुरक्षा की स्थिति विद्यमान है? विवेचना कीजिए।

Universal Social Protection is a situation where almost all of the population is adequately covered by appropriate social protection schemes viz pension, insurance, unemployment benefits etc.

Impact of Universal Social protection On Individual

* Security of both income and health during time of distress.

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* Increases motivation to work hard and contribute more productively
* Break the cycle of intergenerational transmission of poverty.
* Raise the level of health and education among the population

On Economy

* Boost to insurance industry
  - increase penetration and coverage.
* Move towards greater formalization of the economy.
* Increase productive capital and achieve demographic dividend.
* Achieve agenda of Inclusive growth

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Challenges

* Inadequate fiscal capacity with public exchequer
* Diversity and informality in the economy – Makes targetting difficult
* lack of adequate data.

Universal Social Security is the need of the hour.

This can be achieved through

- Greater formalization of economy
- Universal Basic Income
- Targetted schemes like PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

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19. There have been arguments that with the old global multilateral order failing to manage rising challenges, issue-based coalitions are gaining traction and have become the arenas of functional cooperation. Discuss. (250 words) 15

ऐसे तर्क दिए गए हैं कि पुरानी वैश्विक बहुपक्षीय व्यवस्था बढ़ती चुनौतियों का प्रबंधन करने में विफल रही है, जबकि मुद्दे-आधारित गठबंधन लोकप्रियता प्राप्त कर रहे हैं और कार्यात्मक सहयोग के क्षेत्र बन गए हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Old multilateral order is gradually fading giving rise to issue-based coalitions.

Reasons for demise of old order

* Lack of timely reforms - eg. United Nations Security Council has become inequipped to handle modern issues
* Lack of enthusiasm among nations.
* Adversarial geopolitics and Zero-Sum game politics - e.g. as witnessed during vaccine emergency (Covid.

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Issue-based coalitions are gaining traction

* Easier to cooperate without the need for full-fledge bilateral/multilateral cooperation.

* ~~Much~~ Much more effective due to singular focus and well-directed funding by partner countries.

* De-hyphenation between geopolitics and geo-economics.

* Ineffectiveness of old institutions is prompting countries to look for new avenues of cooperation

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* Multidimensional challenges posed by disruptive technologies like AI, Blockchain as well as modern problems like Climate change

Issues in issue-based Coalitions

↳ Fragmented approach to problems
↳ Buildup of adversarial coalitions
↳ Power asymmetry between countries which influence agenda setting

India must be careful in not only reviving the old multilateral institutions but also carefully participate in issue-based coalitions to extract maximum benefits out of them.

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20. India intends to achieve a balanced and optimal development of energy infrastructure in the South-Asian region through mutual understanding and cooperation. In light of this statement, discuss the need as well as existing gaps in South Asia's energy cooperation. **(250 words) 15**

भारत पारस्परिक समझ और सहयोग के माध्यम से दक्षिण-एशियाई क्षेत्र में ऊर्जा के बुनियादी ढांचे में एक संतुलन और उसका इष्टतम विकास सुनिश्चित करना चाहता है। इस कथन के आलोक में, दक्षिण एशिया में ऊर्जा सहयोग की आवश्यकता और इस संदर्भ में विद्यमान कमियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

One of the areas in which the South Asian nations must actively cooperate in Energy to achieve Sustainable Development Goals for the region.

Need for Energy Infrastructure in South Asia

① Development of modern and shared infrastructure need active cooperation in energy.

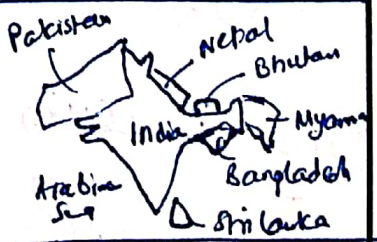

Fig South Asia.

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(2) Address the developmental challenges of the region.

(3) Reduce import dependence from the Gulf-countries — which has influence on the region's geopolitics.

(4) Harness the unutilized potential — e.g. Hydropower potential in Nepal and Bhutan.

(5) Generate Harmony and Good will among nations — tackle insurgency

Gaps in South Asia's Energy Infrastructure

* Technical → lack of harmonisation of supply and distribution standards

* Geographical — Difficult terrain

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along the borders make laying transmission lines difficult.

* Administrative – Price and Tariff policy
  – Maintenance of infrastructure.

* Geopolitical – mutual distrust among nations

* Influence of external actors – eg. China

* Issue of funding – Countries of South Asia are developing countries.

Way
- → Establish a South Asia Power Institute
- → Expedite work on One world one sun, one Grid project
- → Invest in Hydropower
- → leverage SAARC.

Energy cooperation will be a springboard for greater Geopolitical cooperation in South Asia

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